

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT BRANDS AND BRANDING**

1. It is illegal in Kansas to brand any animal without first having the brand registered with the Kansas Animal Health Department Brands Office. New brands are registered for a period of four years from the next April 1 which follows the date of issue.
2. There are six locations on an animal that can be branded with a registered brand: left hip, right hip, left shoulder, right shoulder, left rib and right rib. Six different owners can have the same brand registered, each using their brand on their registered location.
3. A livestock brand can be applied by using a hot iron or the freeze (cryogenic) method.
4. When branding with a hot iron, we discourage brands that contain a letter, number or symbol within a closed area. These brands tend to blotch and can not be clearly read; however, the freeze method is able to brand these brands clearer along with others that have more detail.
5. We do not register single letters or characters. There must be two identifiable characters in the brand design.
6. We do not register single slanting or tumbling letters or numbers. They must be totally upright or lazy.
7. We discourage registering lower case letters, as they conflict with other characters.
8. We no longer register two digit brands. Kansas law gave licensed feedlots authority to use two digits as pen numbers.
9. We no longer register crowns, as they conflict with written W's.
10. We discourage registration of broken bars, as there are so many variations and cause confusion.
11. When registering a brand in the name of a company (except for those that are incorporated), the names of all the people that make up the company need to be listed on the application. This is also true if you are doing business as, for example: Smith and Sons Cattle, Smith Farms, or Smith Cattle Company. We will need all of the names involved in these partnerships.
12. You can use your brand on both cattle and horses, provided you brand them on the same location that your brand is registered for.
13. You may request Joint Tenancy with Rights to Survivorship (JTRS) when applying for a brand. We encourage this if there are two or more people in a partnership. We can not issue JTRS if there is only one person listed on the application. You may also submit a signed statement, of all the partners involved, to request this for a brand currently registered.
14. A brand can be recorded to a trust, provided the names of the trustees are listed.

15. Kansas Brand Laws state that a registered livestock brand is the personal property of the recorded owner and is handled the same as other personal property. In the following examples are cases in which a transfer needs to be made by the current owner executing a notarized bill of sale:
  - .. A registered brand owner wishes to sell their brand to another party.
  - .. When a person/s in a partnership wants to be dropped from or added to the brand registration. Example: as in a divorce, or a son going in business with his father.
  - .. Person/company changes to a corporation.
  - .. An individual wants to use the brand of a deceased brand's owner.
16. In accordance specified by the office of the Attorney General, the Brand Division will no longer renew a brand in the estate of a deceased person. At the time of renewal the brand must be transferred, placed in a trust, or cancelled and re-registered at a later date.
17. The year a brand is due a notice will be sent prior to April 1. Any registered brand owner who fails to pay the renewal fee within 60 days of April 1 expiration will be placed on a delinquent status for 120 days. During this time, it is unlawful to use the brand. Should the owner fail to renew the brand, it will be cancelled 6 months after the date of expiration (October 1) and be made available for re-registration.
18. It is very important to always have a current address in the brand office, both for contact reasons if cattle has been stolen or strayed, and also to receive renewal notices. If a renewal notice is not received and returned because of a wrong address, the brand may get cancelled.
19. When a brand is applied to livestock carrying the brand of another, the new brand should never overlap the existing brand or brands. By law a brand shall not be burned over, into or through, so as to disfigure or mutilate an existing brand. Any person who knowingly brands another person's cattle with his brand or alters a brand is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment.
20. Brand Law does not specify the size of the branding iron. The size of each character or symbol is recommended to be approximately 3 1/2 to 4 inches at the highest and widest points, and the face of the iron at least 1/4 inch wide.
21. Branding a wet or damp animal will usually scald, leave a blotch, a bad sore or no brand at all.
22. The proper heat of an iron is the color of ashes. A red-hot iron starts a hair fire, and usually results in a poor brand.
23. A hot iron should burn deeply enough to remove hair and the outer layer of skin. The hair should be clipped and removed before the hot iron is applied. When the iron is lifted, the brand should be the color of saddle leather.
24. The result of acid branding is usually unreadable. It may cause a bad sore, and leave a scar and not a brand.

25. A small iron will not give a readable brand. A thin, burned-up iron will cut too deeply or make a thin scar, which covers over with hair.
26. Number brands for age, herd or serial number identification may be used in conjunction with a registered brand. The number brands must be applied at least six inches from the registered brand. A special permit from the Brands Office is required for using a number brand.
27. When branded livestock are purchased, it is desirable that the buyer obtains a bill of sale showing their right to possession of the livestock carrying a brand of another.
28. A county may designate a “brand inspection area” whenever a petition is submitted to the Board of County Commissioners and signed by not less than 51% of the registered owners of cattle in that county.
29. The following are some suggestions that may slow a rustler down or make their job a little more difficult:
  - Visit your pastures often.
  - Count the cattle frequently.
  - Keep your fences repaired.
  - Chain and lock gates and facilities.
  - Before leaving on a trip, ask neighbors to be observant.
  - Be observant of strangers and strange vehicles.
  - Identify all animals with brands. Given a choice, a thief will steel UN-branded cattle first.
30. NEVER try to stop a theft in progress. Stay out of the area, and call the sheriff immediately.
31. By law, stray animals shall be reported to the sheriff within 24 hours from the time they are first noticed on the premises. You may also notify the Brands Office of any missing, stray or stolen animals.